

ABSTRACT

5 A method and apparatus for viewing the effect of
changes to an index for a database table on an
optimization plan for a database query, such as an SQL
statement. A virtual table is created which mimics the
structure of an original table on the database. The
virtual table is created by copying the original table,
excluding any data in the original table. Any existing
10 original indexes associated with original table are
copied to define a virtual index associated with the
virtual table. References in the query to the original
table are replaced with references to the virtual table.
The database management system then determines a new
15 optimization plan for the query.